



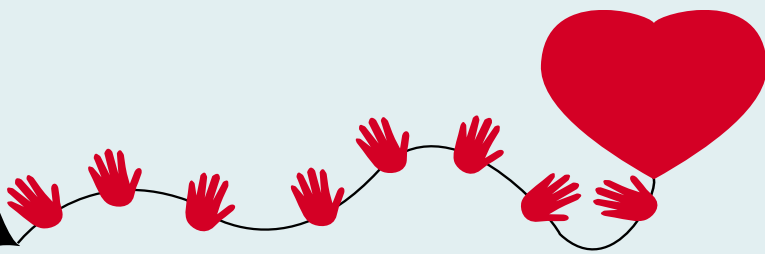
Maricopa County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

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August/September 2001



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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 30, 6 p.m. – Case Selection Meeting, Durango Facility, Rm. 223.

September 13, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Brown Bag Lunch with Judge Scott, Yucca Room, Southeast Facility, Mesa.

September, 18, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Family Group Decision Making seminar, Phoenix Airport Marriott.

September 20, 6:30 p.m. – Peer Group Meeting, Executive Towers.

On-Going Peer Group Meeting – Last Wednesday of every month, home of Mary Lou Davis.

October 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – All day CASA training, ASU Downtown Center.

Please RSVP to our main office for all events:
602.506.4083

Recruitment campaign: Reach out

Everyone has a friend, co-worker, relative, neighbor or acquaintance whom could be a wonderful advocate for a child. The new “Each One Reach One” volunteer recruitment campaign begins with a challenge to every CASA volunteer: extend an invitation, ask one person to become a CASA volunteer.

If each current CASA will meet the challenge, our 200 CASA volunteers serving 400 children will become 400 CASA volunteers serving 800 children!

The number one reason people volunteer is because someone asks them. Our mission is to find new and exciting ways to reach as many people as we can and ask them to join us.

Please join us in our “Each One Reach One” campaign. Our volunteers are the best recruiters. If you have ever thought about why people volunteer, you may have come

From LaDonna Moss

Each One Reach One

Here's how you can help:

- Fill out the survey on page 5 of this newsletter.
- Include ideas and suggestions on how to recruit more volunteers.
- Join our speaker's bureau.
- Provide names of organizations that may be receptive to receiving CASA materials.
- Attend a brainstorming session at the Each One Reach One kickoff celebration at 10 a.m. Aug. 18, in the 3rd floor lecture room of the Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., in Phoenix.

to the realization that the number one reason people

volunteer is because someone asks them.

Television, radio, and newspaper ads help, but it takes a personal touch to get people

in the door. Other people will care because you care, and they will want to make a difference just like you. If each volunteer recruits one other person, we would of course double our ranks, but the real difference would be made in the number of children we serve.

One recruitment event coming up is the August 18 Every One Reach One campaign “kick-off” where we can brainstorm about new and exciting ways to get people involved with the CASA Program. The CASA Speakers Bureau will also focus on polishing public speaking skills to ready everyone for future speaking engagements to

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A message from Judge Linda Scott

As the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge, I welcome you to the second edition of the redesigned CASA Newsletter.

During the summer months, the Court's Office of Community and Media Relations has drawn from staff members' journalism backgrounds and graphics experience to give the newsletter a new face.

Staff evaluated the newsletter to find ways to make it more readable and

effective as a communication tool for CASA volunteers. The newsletter will continue to be by and for CASA volunteers, but as a court publication, it is necessary to assure it complies with court policies and guidelines.

The focus of the newsletter remains on CASA volunteers, not only as the subject of interesting articles, but also as contributors of stories, photo-



graphs and ideas on how to further improve the publication. It will continue to provide CASA volunteers with a way to communicate, learn and share experiences of the extremely important work provided by our CASA volunteers.

This newsletter is your publication. It is the Court's hope that you find it user-friendly, appealing and purposeful. If you would like to share your opinions please contact J.W. Brown, Director of Communications, 201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix AZ. 85003.

CASA Kudos

From Court and Staff:

Joseph and Vicki Orlando were commended in court by Commissioner Robert Colosi for their work with the children in their case. Commissioner Colosi also complemented the CASA program, and the impressive "quality of people the CASA program recruits to do this work."

Amy McDonald was commended in court by Judge Thomas Dunevant for her involvement in her case. Appointed in August 2000, Amy has worked to ensure a safe placement, continued services and a realistic case plan for these children ages 3, 4, and 5.

CASA **Greg Broberg** is thanked by **LaDonna Moss** for coordinating a one-hour radio program that highlighted the CASA Program. Participants included **Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Linda Scott**, foster parents, CASA Coordinator **Rita Flores** and Broberg.

Barbara Karim and **Marshall Porter** get kudos from **LaDonna Moss** for going out in the heat at the Juneteenth Celebration to staff the CASA information table.

From the Foster Care Review Board:

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) commended **Lynda Pederson** for her "diligent efforts on her case." She has remained in contact with and continues to advocate for her CASA child, who is placed in Colorado.

Vicki Avina was commended by FCRB as part of the team for her CASA child. She advocates for a special needs child, born with birth defects and with extended family unable to care for him. He is placed in a loving, therapeutic foster home long-term. Appointed in September 2000, her ability to communicate in Spanish is an important asset in this case.

Lynne Rinde, appointed in September 2000 was commended by the FCRB for her work with a 17-year-old child. Lynne has established a rapport with her CASA child and has been active in ensuring the child's entrance into the Young Adult Program (YAP).

Deanna Williamson was commended by the FCRB for her "active involvement in this case." She was appointed in November 2000. Her CASA Child was initially delayed and is now a typical 'mile-a-minute' 3 year old! Deanna has had to make a difficult

decision regarding placement of this child.

Donna Shemer was commended by the FCRB for working with a child born drug exposed. Donna was appointed in October 2001 to advocate for the child. With the Parents non-compliant and unavailable, Donna advocated for a foster/adoption case plan.

Lori Kirk was commended by the FCRB "for her efforts on the children's behalf." Lori's case involves four children, including one teenager with delinquency matters and another in a residential treatment center in Tucson. Lori has been involved in coordinating sibling visits when possible.

Co-CASAs **Robert Brunson** and **Janet Ofodile** were commended by the FCRB for their commitment to ensuring the children's best interest. This case involves six children, one of whom has aged out of the system. Bob and Janet have been persistent in ensuring the delivery of services and proper placements for these children.

Catherine Brooks was commended by the FCRB for her efforts on a case where the parents were noncompliant. Catherine was appointed in September of 2000.



Special Thanks

The CASA Program Office extends a special "Thank-You" to all volunteers who have responded to requests for information helping us update our personnel files.

The information being gathered is data that was missing or needed to be updated after a recent review of our files. Your patience and response is greatly appreciated. If you have received a request for documents and have not yet responded, please forward the requested information to the CASA Office. Your personnel file is confidential. The information you provide is used only by the CASA Program Office.

Reminder

CASA volunteers are required to have 6 hours of training per calendar year. Please ensure that you complete these hours before December to avoid the last minute rush for training. Call the CASA office if you need help meeting this requirement.

Free Seminar

An all training event is being offered free to CASA volunteers and others Tuesday Sept. 18, at the Phoenix Airport Marriott.

The seminar, entitled Family Group Decision Making, will focus on safety and permanence for children. To register, call your CASA coordinator.

Happy Birthday CASAs

8/2	Nick Nichols	8/19	Patricia Cohen	9/12	Catherine Brooks
8/8	Ellen Smith	8/20	Beverly Burch		Carolyn Atwater
8/9	Joyce Herron	8/27	Lynn Baker	9/14	Melvin O'Donnell
8/10	Jean Davis		Karen Lodoen	9/15	Richard Brandes
8/13	Karen Rubsam	8/31	Frances Dishmon	9/16	Vicki Ruiz
8/14	Angela Barriga	9/1	Marcia Rysdon	9/17	Valerie Sheedy
	Mary Ann Stringer	9/5	Susan Katerinos	9/18	Marshall Porter
	Lori Sipple		Margaret Leach		Anne Murphy
8/17	Francien Randall	9/7	Robert Brunsen	9/21	Victoria Orlando
8/18	Christine Mansperger	9/8	Nicole Ekberg	9/22	Pamela Frye
		9/9	Amanda Davisson	9/23	Rita Myrann
		9/12	Anne Donahoe	9/24	Erin Harvick

CASA braves eery start, makes children life's pursuit

For Peiggi Clements, a love for volunteerism began the day she walked through heavy wrought-iron gates into an 18-room mansion with floor-boards that creaked. She was 15, anxious and ready to help any way possible at the Emotionally Disturbed Children's School in Suffolk County, New York.

"I just knew I wanted to be doing something," Clements said of her decision to give up her summer vacation to be a volunteer. On her own initiative, she went to the school and waited politely for officials to decide if she qualified. While sitting outside the school office, she got a taste of the challenge of her offer.

"It was the most frightening experience I ever had," she said. "This boy came down the stairs biting his hand and yelling and spitting and frothing. I was told, 'Don't mind Peter, that's just how he acts when he gets upset.'"

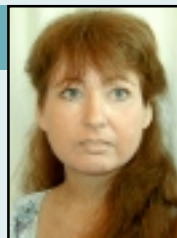
When Clements didn't bolt out the door, she was instantly accepted as a volunteer, despite her youth. She spent all of her free time that summer assisting the children residing there. Clements' understanding and compassion for children-at-risk was nurtured by the staff's love and patience toward the students and her own ability to gain the children's trust.

That experience tested her fortitude that began developing from an early age.

Volunteer Profile

By Liz Osborn

Peiggi Clements



In childhood, Clements preferred catching frogs and snakes and hunting wildlife rather than doting on dolls. She reveled in playing military games like "Combat," refusing to be intimidated during mock battle with other kids.

Her resilience prepared Clements to confront life's challenges and survive. She moved across the country three times, in 1969 discovered Arizona as a place to establish new roots, raised a daughter and expanded her family by opening her home to a six-year-old boy with serious developmental challenges.

In the early 1980s, while serving as a reserve sheriff's deputy and attending classes at the Phoenix Police Academy, she broke her spine in an accident and shattered her dream of a career in law enforcement.

Her spirit, however, was not broken.

She found other job opportunities, and not surprisingly, continued to also find volunteer opportunities.

She has worked with the Department of Economic Security assisting pregnant women and families get needed medical benefits. While working with the Pinal County Prevention Partnership, she

How did Peiggi get her name?

She was named after her great, great aunt Margaret. But when she wanted to use the less formal name of "Peggy," her father balked, telling her she was spelling it wrong. The Gaelic translation is "Peiggi." It's the name she's used since her dad made sure she remained true to her Welsh, Irish, Scottish, English heritage. Relatives, still living in Central England's Sherwood Forest, approve.

organized students in drug awareness programs and worked to reduce the high school drop out rate. She also wrote grants to provide financial aid to the partnership.

Clements donated countless hours to the Glendale Police Department, lent a hand to a crisis center at a South Phoenix church that provided

food to hungry families and discovered the CASA program nearly a decade ago, while in Pinal County.

Children and their welfare never left Clements' heart. When she made a home for Josh seven years ago, it was with her promise to become his adoptive mother. She personally experienced the arduous journey foster-adopt parent travel, especially when the child has special needs. She and Josh survived monthly visits from caseworkers, completed reams of paperwork and met adoption certification demands.

Challenges continued after the adoption was final, with Josh's ongoing counseling sessions, psychiatric and medical treatment and occupational and speech therapy. Today, at 13, he is an honor student and plays the trumpet.

Clements has a unique perspective, having experienced dependent children's services both as a client and as a CASA volunteer.

She understands the juvenile justice system and has felt the frustrations and complex emotions facing foster and adoptive parents.

She currently is advocating for a CASA teen, is a member of the CASA Speakers Bureau and is a contributor to the CASA newsletter.

She also is a member of Arizona Council for CASA, a nonprofit organization that raises funds to benefit CASA children and CASA volunteers.

Each One Reach One, From Page 1

recruit volunteers.

Another recruitment opportunity being planned is the "Light of Hope" celebration in April, 2002 that will focus on foster children in Maricopa

County and the need for foster parents and CASA volunteers.

Planned events may include a balloon drop, children's choir, with local school children participating

and lending a helping hand.

The event will be open to the public and media.

A large "Each One Reach One" 2002 Celebration is also anticipated to honor all CASA volunteers, who will be expected to bring a prospective

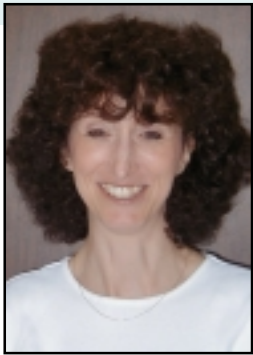
CASA volunteer with them.

Thank you for the tremendous work you have already done in spreading the word about CASA.

Let's keep up the momentum.

Coordinator's Corner

By Rita Flores



My decision to accept the CASA coordinator position meant leaving my home in Nebraska and being temporarily separated from my family. This life experience has taught me something invaluable. Now I have a sense of what foster children must feel in not having their family and being taken out of their comfortable surroundings.

However painful their home life may be, it is still very difficult for these children. The feeling of aloneness and lack of permanency can be overwhelming.

The faster these children can be moved on to permanency, the better off they will be. Some new developments taking place with the Adoption and Safe Families Act regarding concurrent permanency planning will assist in achieving this mission.

Generally when a case plan is initiated, the system requires that all efforts be made to reunify the family.

Then if the family fails in those efforts, the case plan shifts to an alternative permanency goal.

Concurrent permanency planning allows us to work towards family reunification while establishing an alternative plan at the same time. The benefit of using concurrent rather than sequential planning efforts decreases the length of stay in foster care. This forces the system to engage families in early case planning, case review and decision-making about permanency options. These efforts focus on children's urgent need for stability and continuity in their family relationships.

When the child is removed from their home - but no later than 90 days from case opening - an assessment shall be completed on the prognosis for achieving family reunification. Identifying strengths, needs and core problems result in a tentative, reasoned hypothesis about the probability of the child returning home. The assessment also determines the family's capacity to benefit from reunification services and the need for an alternative plan.

Concurrent permanency planning occurs for all children in out-of-home care with a case plan goal of family

reunification even when the prognosis of achieving family reunification is poor and unlikely to occur within the 12 months of the child's initial removal. In cases where the concurrent permanency planning is occurring, the team shall simultaneously actively pursue family reunification and the alternative goal. In these cases, the Department of Economic Security (DES) shall identify and pursue placement of the child in a suitable and potentially permanent placement.

CASA volunteers see the damage that occurs to children when they experience numerous moves and relationship disruptions. One of the aspects of concurrent permanency planning is after children are removed from the home into an emergency foster placement, there should be only one more placement to a permanency planning family.

Permanency planning families are foster parents who are already certified to adopt and are willing to take a child not yet legally free for adoption. They are used as a back up contingency plan to either adopt or provide legal guardianship to children. These are foster parents who are willing to take the emotional risk of developing attachments to a potential adoptive child, while mentoring and encouraging the birth family at the same time. By making such a commitment, they are collaborators

as well as a permanency resource if reunification does not work out.

The idea of using foster parents as collaborators is not unique. In a model foster care setting, the foster parents develop relationships with the parents that encourage and support reunification. They attend visitations, provide hands-on teaching of parenting skills and exchange information. When possible, foster and birth parents attend case reviews, medical appointments, developmental evaluations and school functions together. Often these relationships continue after the child or children return home. They provide the birth family with a type of extended family system that may have been lacking. In cases where reunification does not occur, these relationships often lead to voluntary parental relinquishments rather than termination of parental rights. When placing a child in a permanency planning family, consideration should be given to the compatibility between both families and not just between the foster child and the foster family.

What help can Court Appointed Special Advocates provide?

CASAs can assist in building a network of foster parents who are willing to ride an emotional roller coaster. CASAs can help identify cases that could benefit from concurrent permanency planning.

CPS provides methods to help foster care children

By Gene Burns, DES District 1 Program Manager

CASA volunteers familiar with foster care may not be acquainted with several programs Child Protective Services (CPS) utilizes prior to a child being placed into foster care to help assure the child's safety and well-being.

In District 1, which

encompasses Maricopa County, an average of 190 youth each month are placed in foster care. This is only a percentage of the families that CPS deals with on a day-to-day basis.

District 1 strives to

provide family-focused services while assuring the safety of the child. The district's Quality Assurance Unit reviews cases on a monthly basis to ensure that investigations are consistent with federal and state proce-

dures.

Approximately 1,100 child abuse reports are assigned to investigators each month, which is a 7% increase from the previous fiscal year. Despite this increase and staff turnover, all reports are investigated to ensure the

Continued Page 5

CPS, From Page 4

safety of children. Should a child be considered to be in imminent risk of harm, the case manager first determines if the family can be kept intact and the safety of the child assured through one of the following programs: Family Preservation/Project Thrive; Family Group Decision Making; and Voluntary Foster Care.

When Family Preservation Project Thrive (FPPT) is accessed, the family is referred to a contracted service team, comprised of a master's level therapist and a parent aide. This team is charged with creating a safety plan (addressing the reasons why CPS became involved) with the family within 4-12 hours, depending on the severity of the case. The service will continue up to 120 days. The team will meet with the family a minimum of three times each week for the first 60 days. After 60 days, the team will meet with the family according to need. Prior to closing the case, the FPPT team will ensure that the family has community supports available.

Family Group Decision Making is District 1's most culturally sensitive and family centered service. If a child is at risk, he or she may be placed in voluntary foster care. This will allow for CPS to locate all kinship members. Once kin is located, they are brought together in a neutral setting. The professionals will present the issues meriting CPS involvement. Once this is completed, a conference with only the family members is convened, to develop a plan that addresses the concerns warranting CPS

intervention. This plan, along with a backup plan, is presented to the entire group for acceptance. CPS monitors the case for up to six months, to ensure that the family has the support they need to carry out the plan.

Voluntary Foster Care is a 90-day foster care program, which makes it possible for a parent to place their child or children in temporary care. To access this service, the case manager must believe that the family's problems can be resolved within 90 days.

Should none of the above services alleviate the concerns, the case manager will issue a temporary custody notice and hold a removal review. Participants in the removal review include the assigned case manager and supervisor, an ongoing supervisor from a different section, an ongoing case manager, and a volunteer from the Foster Care Review Board. This team will reach consensus as to whether a petition will be filed with the court or the child will be returned home. Should consensus not be achieved, the assigned Assistant Program Manager will make the decision. If CPS serves a petition, a judge makes the decision if the child will or will not remain in care.

Permanency relies on the collaboration of CPS, the courts, service providers, community services and CASA volunteers to assist the child and family in achieving their goals. The number of youth in custody has continued to decrease significantly due to increased efforts in reunification and adoption.

"Each One Reach One" Survey

Your Name:

Please check the activities in which you will participate:

- ☐ Place flyers, brochures, etc. in your company's employee lounge.
- ☐ Ask grocers in your area to display a CASA poster.
- ☐ Contact the bookstore nearest you for permission to display CASA bookmarks.
- ☐ Contact all of the businesses you frequent (salons, hardware stores, flower shops, etc.) for permission to display CASA information materials.
- ☐ Join the Speakers Bureau.

If you are a member of a civic club, professional or student organization, faith congregation or other such group, that may want to know more about the CASA program, please list them below. Use extra paper if necessary.

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Return survey to:

W. La Donna Moss
CASA Program
3125 W. Durango Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008

e-mail:

lmoss@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov

You may fax survey to:

602.506.5512

You may also respond by phone:

602.506.3930

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

CASA Contacts and Information

Locations

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